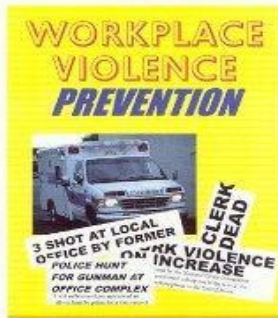




COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown District

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Workplace Violence Prevention

Homicide is the second leading cause of fatal occupational injury in the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 1,000 workers are murdered and 1.5 million are assaulted in the workplace each year.

Although workplace violence by disgruntled employees gets the most media attention and “going postal” has become a household term, the truth is between 75 to 85 percent of job related homicides are committed by unknown assailants while in the commission of another crime.

Most incidents of workplace violence take place at the hands of robbers, thieves and burglars and other outside assailants, rather than co-workers. Although violence by disgruntled employees is a growing problem, most of the time it is a stranger who is the attacker.

Workplace violence is the product of an interaction among three factors: the individual who takes violent action; a stimulus or triggering condition that leads the person to take the violent action; and a setting that facilitates or permits the violence or in which there is a lack of intervention. You may not have control over the first two factors but you do over the third.

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From the desk of Commander Johnny Cervantes

So what is VIN etching? VIN etching is the process of placing the Vehicle Identification number (VIN) on every piece of glass on a vehicle. The process involves taking the VIN and making labels that contain the VIN on a Dot Matrix printer. The labels are then placed on the glass of the vehicle. A chemical solution is then placed on the labels allowing the chemical to etch into the glass. The label is then removed leaving the VIN etched on the glass. The process only takes ten minutes.

There are several advantages for having your vehicle VIN etched. It allows an officer to see the VIN number on several locations of the vehicle, not just on the dash board. It makes it difficult for a suspect to VIN switch a vehicle since all the glass would have to be replaced to get rid of the original vehicle identity. Some insurance companies will give you a discount for having your vehicle VIN etched.

By having your vehicle VIN etched you are adding a layer of protection to reduce the likelihood of having your vehicle stolen.

VIN etching is performed free by the Scottsdale Police Departments Auto Crimes Unit. For additional information on Vin Etching please call 480-312-8802

Commander Johnny Cervantes

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Planning can be the number one deterrent to workplace violence. Having policies and procedures in place can make the difference in preventing workplace violence.

The following safety tips are recommended to help both employers and employees mitigate potential danger:

Safety Tips for Employers:

- Take a physical security survey of your workplace and review current policies and procedures. Enlist the aid of security professionals or your police department's crime prevention officer to help identify possible security vulnerabilities in landscaping, lighting, employee and visitor access, and signage.
- When hiring new employees check references, work history, criminal records and education thoroughly.
- Conduct full national background checks on all employees and contractors annually and provide yearly training on workplace violence prevention.
- Encourage all employees to report unusual or suspicious behavior. Make sure they know who to report problems to and take those reports seriously.
- Develop a clear, written policy that spells out procedures in cases of violence and emergencies.
- Establish a pre-determined code word for employees to use when they need immediate assistance.
- Install video surveillance cameras to monitor both inside and outside your business. Video surveillance can be a deterrent to potential thieves. It can also be a valuable tool to help identify perpetrators and aid law enforcement before, during and after a robbery, theft or other crime.
- Implement access control systems and visitor management systems to handle visitor and employee access. All employees and visitors should display proper identification badges at all times. Make sure to immediately update access control systems, I.D. cards and readers when an employee leaves the company.

Safety Tips for Employees:

- Be aware at your workplace. If you notice someone unfamiliar to your office, someone without an I.D. card or behaving suspiciously, report it to your company's security team or your supervisor. Never approach anyone you think may pose a threat.
- Use the buddy system. If you ever feel unsafe walking to or from your car after work; walk with a trusted coworker or ask for a security escort.

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- Keep personal items such as purses and wallets in a secure place out of sight. About 75 percent of workplace violence incidents are robbery related, so consider the use of a locked cabinet or desk drawer to secure your valuables at all times.
- Knowledge is power, so take time to review and learn about your company's policy on evacuations, lockdowns, and violence. Knowing what to do and where to go in an emergency can save lives.

Preventative measure likes these are key to helping enhance workplace safety and can provide peace-of-mind for employers, employees and customers.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594, email: cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 2 Police Aide Randee Short at 480-312-2074, email: rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Upcoming Events

Paper Shredding Event -

Feb 3rd 9-noon (or until the truck is full).
3720 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale AZ 85251
Donations accepted. Suggested \$2 per box.
Residents and businesses welcome. The location is the Scottsdale Artist's School. The school will be open to tour.

Arabian Horse Show - Celebrate the 55th Annual Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, February 11-21 at Westworld. Approx 8am-8pm daily. General admission is \$10.

Over 2000 of the world's most beautiful and talented Arabians come to compete for the title of Scottsdale Champion. There will also be over 300 commercial vendors that include art, clothing, jewelry, and horse supplies. Visit the website at www.scottsdalshow.com for more details.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817